

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 10600, San Francisco, California 94102 tel 415 352 3600 fax 415 352 3606

May 8, 2015

The Honorable Brian P. Kelly, Secretary
California State Transportation Agency
915 Capitol Mall, Ste. 350-B
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: BCDC Adapting to Rising Tides Program and Transportation Assets Resilience

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Once again, thank you very much for meeting with Steve Heminger, Bijan Sartipi, and me on April 17 to discuss current and future challenges faced by the San Francisco Bay Area due to rising sea level. I hope that you found our proposal to use BCDC's *Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) Program* compelling, and that you can assist BCDC's efforts to develop partnerships and take actions to increase the resilience of transportation assets in the Bay Area.

Governor Brown's Executive Order released last week makes it clear that the State is beginning to address more comprehensively the difficult issues of how best to adapt to climate change. BCDC's ART Program, with its successful track record, is perfectly positioned to assist your Office and CalTrans respond to that Executive Order and develop a comprehensive plan to reduce future impacts of rising sea level. The ART Program will expand its successful climate adaptation planning functions into more Bay Area counties during FY2015-16 using grant funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), some of BCDC's general funds, and a \$1M pledge of annual support from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. However, we need additional resources to complete this task in an accelerated timeframe that will allow us to get a meaningful leg up on climate adaptation and enable CalTrans to build comprehensive solutions that are embraced by communities as soon as possible.

Therefore, BCDC seeks matching funds from the California State Transportation Agency to help expand and accelerate the ART Program to enable a diverse group of place-based stakeholders – including state transportation officials – to lead the effort to protect state-owned and other community and regional assets at risk. These additional resources will also help BCDC leverage additional funding and implement ART throughout the Bay Area in the most effective and efficient manner possible. We are confident that investing these resources now will build community-level buy-in for climate adaptation solutions and will pay long-term dividends as the impacts of climate change become even more pronounced.

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Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have, and I certainly would be happy to come to your office to do so.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE J. GOLDZBAND
Executive Director

LJG/gg

cc: Malcolm Dougherty, CalTrans
Will Kempton, California Transportation Commission
Kate White, California State Transportation Agency
Steve Heminger, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Bijan Sartipi, CalTrans District Four